and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fifteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6236 of December 6, 1990

National Poison Prevention Week, 1991

By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

As we mark the 30th observance of National Poison Prevention Week, we can take pride in the success of this important annual public awareness campaign. Since our first observance of National Poison Prevention Week in 1962, the number of deaths by poisoning among children under the age of five has declined significantly. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission reports that in 1961, poisoning claimed the lives of 450 youngsters. By 1987, that number had dropped to 31. Nevertheless, because the death of even one child by accidental poisoning is intolerable, we must continue efforts aimed at education and prevention.

The Poison Prevention Week Council, a coalition of 36 national organizations that are determined to stop accidental poisonings, coordinates National Poison Prevention Week activities. In addition to distributing valuable information, the Council encourages local poison control centers, pharmacies, public health departments, and other concerned parties to conduct poison prevention programs in their communities. The Consumer Product Safety Commission, which each year provides a member to serve as Secretary of the Poison Prevention Week Council, helps to lead this important public health campaign. Thus, it is a truly national campaign, enlisting the combined energy and resources of government officials, health care professionals, educators, business and industry leaders, media representatives, and members of private voluntary organizations.

Poison prevention activities such as those highlighted this week have helped to save lives, but there is more to do. Each year more than half a million children are exposed to potentially poisonous medicines or household chemicals. It is therefore vital that we continue to remind parents, grandparents, and other adults about the risks of childhood poisoning and the ways tragic accidents can be prevented. Simple safety measures—such as using child-resistant closures and keeping potentially harmful substances out of the reach of children—can save lives.

To encourage the American people to learn more about the dangers of accidental poisonings and to take more preventative measures, the Congress, by joint resolution approved September 26, 1961 (75 Stat. 681), has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation designating the third week of March of each year as "National Poison Prevention Week."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week beginning March 17, 1991, as

National Poison Prevention Week. I call upon all Americans to observe this week by participating in appropriate ceremonies and activities and by learning how to prevent accidental poisonings among children.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this sixth day of December, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fifteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6237 of December 7, 1990

Wright Brothers Day, 1990

By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

When Orville and Wilbur Wright's hand-crafted airplane lifted off the windswept beach near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, on December 17, 1903, only a handful of men and perhaps a few startled sea gulls witnessed the world's first controlled, manned flight in a heavier-than-air, mechanically propelled aircraft. Nevertheless, this brief bold flight changed the course of history. With the success of their daring experiment, Orville and Wilbur Wright ushered in the age of aviation.

From the time they experimented with airplane models and wind tunnels at their small workshop in Dayton, Ohio, until the end of their celebrated careers, the Wright brothers demonstrated qualities shared by all great pioneers and inventors. Eager to learn and determined to succeed, they engaged in hours of intense study and painstaking trial, calculation, and design. As individuals they were confident, methodical, and brilliantly intuitive engineers.

Shortly after the Wrights began their experiments, they found that the small amount of data previously collected by others was unreliable. Consequently, they conducted their own basic research, literally writing the book on fundamental aerodynamics. Eventually, the Wrights used their carefully acquired knowledge to build a machine so far ahead of its day that they even had to design and build their own motor, one that was both powerful and lightweight.

The Wrights' diligent and enlightened approach to their work was the key to their success. Wilbur once remarked: "If a man is in too big a hurry to give up an error, he is liable to give up some truth with it, and in accepting the arguments of the other man, he is sure to get some error with it . . . . After I get a hold of a truth I hate to lose it again, and I like to sift all the truth out before I give up an error." Such intellectual openness and tenacity—coupled with courage, creativity, and perseverance—enabled the Wright brothers to defy both the skepticism of friends and the force of gravity as they launched the age of controlled human flight.

We live in a world transformed by the work of the Wright brothers, and in this age of sophisticated air and space travel, their first flight still stands as one of the most extraordinary achievements of the 20th